

ROADS REPORT

April 2010

Vol 3 No 4

ROADS OFFICERS

Pres. KX5W Doc
V.P. WA7IBW Dean
Secty/Treas K7IJK Irene
PIO KY0TE Harry

Dates To Remember

Meeting: April 15 (Thursday) 7 pm
Field Day in June
VE Testing: 2nd Sat in May
License Classes: TBA

The Prez Sez



Our last meeting was interesting with some decisions made by the membership. The club voted to continue meeting at the Court House on the third Thursday of the month. The club voted to not continue to pursue the fire department's building as a clubhouse as an ongoing project after waiting for 5 years for it. And we briefly discussed field day and saw 5 persons after the regular meeting

brainstorming on different aspects of field day.

I hope to have a good report at the April meeting by the Field Day Committee--things like proposed location; number of stations; equipment available; people available. It would be great to not start from the beginning at our June meeting on all this as that's a late start, so that's why I am asking for planning ahead now.

Irene suggested at the last meeting that we need further discussion of the direction and purpose the club wants to pursue. I agree and so this will be an item under New Business to discuss on our April 15 meeting. We want the club to grow and be interesting and conform to the direction the club membership wants to see it go toward.

It was suggested that our club was formed to be a more social radio club and we might want our May meeting to be a dinner meeting, with spouses, significant others and other guests. So come with your opinion and see if that is what the group wants to do.

Some of you skip the DX COMMENTARY section as you are not interested in DX--fine, doesn't hurt my feelings at all--but you might want to just scan it this time and see that Dean Trask, our VP, is on the air after a 30 YEAR pause !!

Hope to see you all at the Court House, 7 pm, April 15.



ROADS Secretary/Treasurer

K7IJK, Irene Boswell, takes notes and keeps records, as well as taking care of the piggy bank for ROADS. Irene was instrumental in completing the complex paperwork that was needed to obtain our incorporation and our tax exempt status.

Irene works in Dallas for a government entity, which adds to her talents when it comes to discharging her duties with ROADS.

The next time you are at a ROADS meeting, say hello and thank her for the hours she has spent completing tasks that add to our smooth sailing as a club.

Can You Pass One Of These Quizes?

The first quiz is for those licensed after January 1, 2000. You must associate the prefix with a country or province. Write in the answer behind the prefix. A score of 7 right is required to pass. Less than 7 correct and you should turn in your license. This is NOT an open book quiz!

KH6 _____ KL7 _____
KP4 _____ VE7 _____
VE3 _____ JA _____
PY _____ AA5 _____
WY7 _____ LU _____

Answers are on the last page

QUIZ 2 for those licensed before 1970. You must get 9 correct to pass. If you don't, you must turn in your current license and buy a CB rig and stay on 11 meters. If you get all 15 correct, you get a Gold Star and will be awarded a special certificate at a future ROADS meeting. Many of these prefixes were in use prior to 1970. This is NOT an open book quiz.

4X4 _____ JT _____
HZ _____ TU _____
BV _____ HL9 _____
KS4 _____ KS6 _____
KR6 _____ KZ5 _____
3A _____ TF _____
VR6 _____ VS5 _____
VP9 _____

Answers are on the last page - from official DXCC rules and QSLs.

7 Land QSO Party, May 1st

Mark it on your calendars! These are always a lot of fun. Starts in the morning at 6 AM and runs until Midnight on **Saturday, May 1st. Any band and any mode.** SSB is always popular. If you are tired of logging with a pencil, go to this web site and get a software program that does all the work for you: <http://www.codxc.com/new/Page.asp?Content=DRYLAND7S&Page=6>

Call me if you have questions. 73, K7QXG

April Station Of The Month

W7LOU



W7LOU, Bob Boswell, Founder of ROADS, in his super station.

Probably most of you do not realize that Bob is the founder of the Radio Operators' Association of Dallas. At one time the only ham radio organization in Dallas was the Polk County ARES group, and some members of that organization wanted a club that was oriented to social activities as well as technical roles. ARES is a fine organization, but it "never-smiles" and is very rigid in its application of amateur radio to its nets and activities. ROADS initially began with a broader and less rigid philosophy, which is why we forgo two or three meetings a year and meet at a restaurant or pizza place instead. Once we even had a summer picnic!

Bob announced a formation meeting at his home and it was well attended. W7TDN, Trent, and myself were there. Some of the hams who were present have long since moved, or have given up amateur radio. There were several names selected for the new organization, and eventually "ROADS" was proposed by a gentleman named Will. The name was adopted, and Will became the first newsletter Editor. He is no longer active in amateur radio.

Over the years W7LOU has held the positions of President, Vice President, and trouble maker-at-large. Among his other credits: He was the VE Coordinator for Polk County for many years and still participates as a VE. He

was the driving force behind the ROADS booth at the Fall and Winter hamfests at Rickreall. On one occasion he and your Editor made a presentation to the Polk County fair board seeking permission to establish a club house on the Polk County fairgrounds. Although we were turned down, it still reflects a sincere effort by Bob to see the club advance and find a permanent location for holding meetings, training, and socializing.

Bob's station is the envy of nearly everyone in Dallas. He has a 65 foot tower that supports 3 different yagis that cover 6, 10, 15, 17, 20, and 30 meters. Wire antennas round out the antenna farm. In the station is an array of equipment that includes a great Alpha amplifier.

When W7LOU wants to work someone, it usually takes just one call to get their attention.

Bob's wife, Irene, K7IJK, is the Secretary-Treasurer for ROADS. It is fair to say that both Bob and Irene have given a significant amount of their time to keep ROADS healthy and moving forward and both are owed our thanks for building ROADS to the club it is today.

DX by KX5W

On the local scene we have heard of a couple of our members working a lot of DX the last couple of weeks. John, KE7JNT, worked Cambodia, Uzbekistan, W Malaysia, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Gabon on 20 phone in just two days !! These were all new countries for John—congrats !!

Bob K7QXG worked 9K2K on SSB and I heard the QSO. In the WPX DX contest the last weekend in March I had over 100 DX QSOs!

Of special note, I helped Dean Trask, our VP, by loaning him a transceiver, Carolina Windom, power supply, tuner, keyer and paddle. After setting it up we worked Japan and Morocco. Dean's first contact in 30 YEARS was to Hawaii on 17 meters.....congrats Dean !!!

Some of the announced DX Peditions in April include:

3B8SC—Mauritius

3W6C—Vietnam

3C0—Annabon the one with the pilot boat on the air is now postponed (darn);

ZS8M—Marion Island

FR/F5UOW–Reunion Is

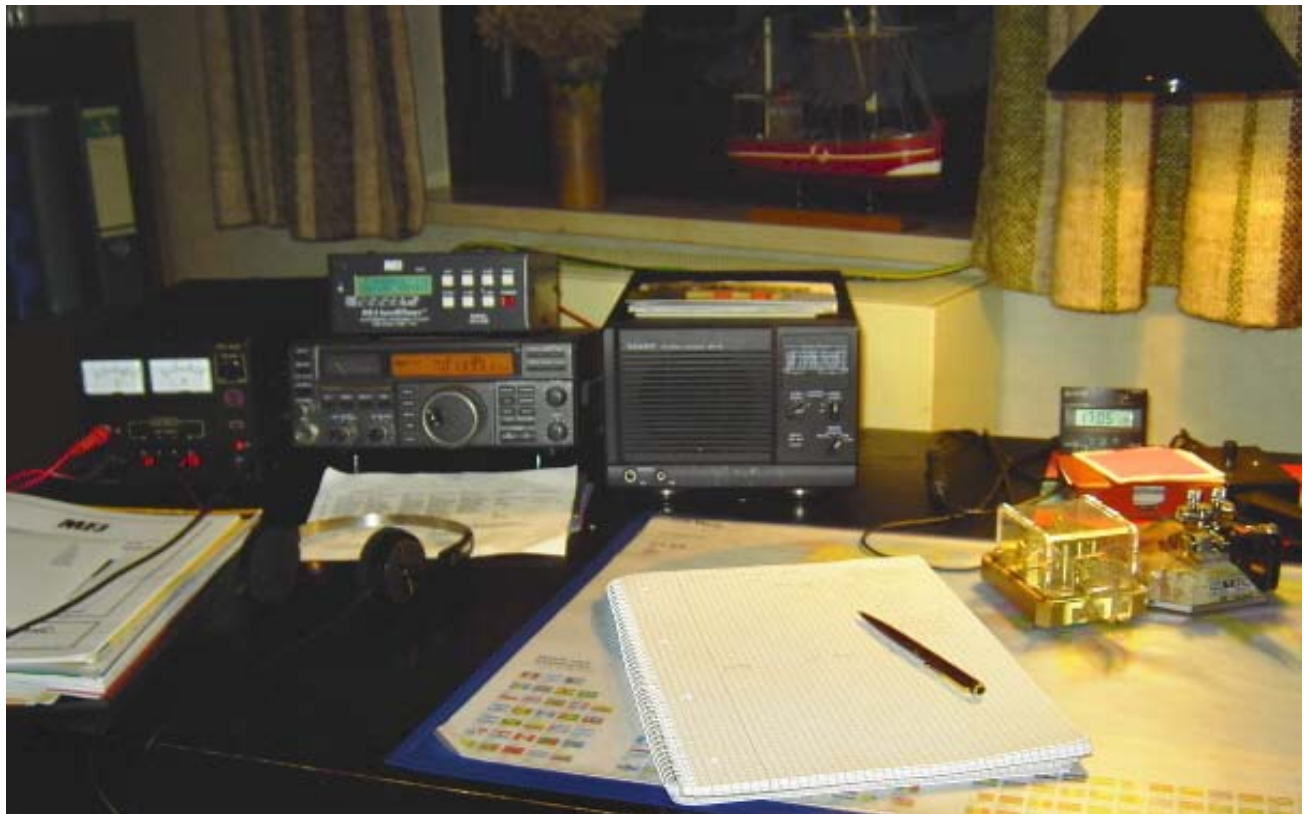
BW1/K8QKY–Taiwan

ZL7J–Chatham Is–late April to early May. Plus several more.

Good luck on looking, finding and working some of these. Best of DX !!

DL9CM

The photos below are by permission of Rolf, DL9CM, who operates CW only. I was fortunate to get a call from him on 20 meter CW on March 18th. He is a very skilled CW operator. Notice the neat layout of his station.



Can you identify the equipment in the above photo? No??? Then it's time to get out your MFJ catalogue. The unit on top of his rig is from MFJ.

Rolf has worked stations all around the world with this equipment, which proves that a little patience and timing are all it takes to get a contact.



On the left is Rolf's antenna. Rolf does a very good job with this vertical and I had no trouble copying him once we established contact.

On the day we had our QSO, I made contact with many other European stations and several were using vertical antennas.

Of interest, I work many stations, US and DX, that are only running 100 watts and are using verticals, wire dipoles, delta loops, etc. Not everyone is fortunate enough to be using a yagi on a tower.



These keyer paddles are absolutely lovely!!! After seeing this photo it makes my Bencher look very shabby indeed!

DL9CM is very skilled with them, and you can see he doesn't just display them, he uses them.

If a ROADS member has a keyer paddle as nice as these, please bring it

to a ROADS meeting so we can all drool over it. I wonder where Rolf got the paddle on the right.... hmmm Father's Day isn't that far away. In fact, June 18th allows just the right amount of time to order one from Europe.....

Aha! I just learned that K7CIE owns TWO Bengali CW paddles! Now I wonder where Mike came up with those two "Cadillacs" of keyer paddles? How about bringing them to a meeting Mike, so we can all drool over them?



KE7JNT is looking for a good used three element quad with the DX already built in. He wants to turn on his radio and then select the country he wants, just like you select the channel you want on your TV. If you have one of these wonderful antennas, please contact John at the next ROADS meeting.

March VE Session

On March 13th ROADS conducted its semi-monthly VE Testing session at 9:00 AM at the Polk County Courthouse (same room as our regular ROADS meeting). We had seven individuals attend the session with one new Technician and two new General licenses. They were:

Bill Briskey from Monmouth - New Tech
Wesley Larson from Keizer - New General
Clarence Wilson from Monmouth - New General

I want to thank the following VE for helping at the session. Bob - K7QXG, Bob - W7LOU, Alesa - KA7UGQ, John - KE7JNT, Trent - W7TDN and Nat - W7NAT.

Our next VE session will be held on May 8th, 2010 at 9:00 AM. So if you want to upgrade your license, you or someone you know what to get a new license please join us.

Remember we can submit your renewals.

Ron W7HO
ROADS VE Team Liaison

ROADS Is Going Fishin'

A ROADS Special Event Coming In April

Remember the Easter egg hunt? How about the Christmas Present Hunt?

Well, ROADS is going to do it again. New rules. Level playing field. And a more reasonable time span. Certificates of course, if desired.

Special Event: *ROADS Goes Fishing*

When: *April 17th, 9 AM PDST to Sunday, April 18th, 4 PM PDST.*

Bands/Modes: *All modes, 2 meters and all HF bands*

Goal: *Find and contact as many ROADS participants as you can during the 31 hour time period described above. Each participant will have a point value. Record their call and point value and send to K7QXG via email or snail mail, or hand deliver at the Monday coffee on April 19th. You can only work each station once!*

Full Details: *The above information pretty well describes the activity. Each participant will have a fishing name to go with their point value, i.e., Fish Pole = 10 points, Worm = 2 points, etc.*

Point Value assignments: *These will be handed out at the ROADS meeting on April 15th. If you cannot make the meeting, you must email the event chairman before Saturday, April 17th. Send to K7QXG@arrl.net. A return email will contain your designation and point value, i.e., silver lure = 4 points, etc.*

All logs must be submitted no later than April 21 to be eligible for a certificate.

Suggestion: *About 8 ROADS members will be checking into the Oregon Trail 10-10 net on Sunday the 18th at 12 noon on 28.450 Mhz. At the conclusion of the net, there will be an exchange of "Specials". This is a good spot to gather many of these "Specials". **Remember, you can also participate in the net, even if you do not belong to 10-10 or the Oregon Trail chapter.***

So, you get a line and I'll get a pole and we'll go down to the fishing hole..... and catch a lunker or two.

Future Articles on Member's Stations

I am still looking for a few members who are willing to have a photo taken of their station and have a few comments about the operator and the station posted in a future issue of the ROADS Report. I will also be featuring photos and comments about mobile stations in a future issue of the **Report**. You may contact me at a ROADS meeting, via email, or by telephone.

Quiz Answers

Part 1

KH6 - Hawaii

KL7 - Alaska

KP4 - Puerto Rico

VE7 - British Columbia

VE3 - Ontario

JA - Japan

PY - Brazil

AA5 - USA

WY7 - USA

LU - Argentina

You need 7 correct to pass. 10 correct is Very Good.

Part 2

4X4 - Israel

HZ - Saudi Arabia

BV - Taiwan

KS4 - Swan Island

KR6 - Okinawa

3A - Monaco

VR6 - Pitcairn Island

VP9 - Bermuda

JT - Mongolia

TU - Ivory Coast

HL9 - South Korea

KS6 - Samoa

KZ5 - Canal Zone

TF - Iceland

VS5 - Brunei

You need 9 correct to pass. Get all 15 right and win a certificate.

See all of you next month!

73, K7QXG

